

## HPFA Background note 2: S106 money and demographics.

### Introduction

Following the granting of planning applications in Hanborough totalling 339 houses there is funding available for the community. Much of this is from what are commonly called “S106 agreements” and in simple terms, this is the local government association’s relevant definition.

*Planning obligations under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended), commonly known as s106 agreements, are a mechanism which make a development proposal acceptable in planning terms, that would not otherwise be acceptable. They are focused on site specific mitigation of the impact of development.<sup>1</sup>*

### Parish council plan

There are several agreements for Hanborough with the largest amount of money going to OCC for Hanborough Manor School. Then there are other agreements for sport and recreation that total around £550,000. Hanborough Parish Council (HPC) plan to spend £450,000 of this on building a new youth centre leaving only £100,000 for the rest of the community’s needs for sport and recreation.

This note is not about whether the community should have a new youth centre; it is about fair dealing and the legitimacy of how to spend money intended to benefit the whole community. Currently, those of youth age in Hanborough are around 10 to 12 % of the population (see below for statistical analysis) so, on the face of it, HPC intend to spend 80% of this money on serving around 11% of the population. Some are questioning this because it implies that 80% of the impact of these developments is on around 11% of the population and we have seen no justification of this. There has been discussion in Facebook forums and one parish councillor offered to supply figures to back the intention but despite accepting that offer two weeks ago, no further information was forthcoming. Meanwhile, a local resident wrote directly to the Chair of HPC expressing concerns and did receive a response containing some additional data.

As said above, this is not about whether there should be a youth centre or not but ensuring the S016 money goes to its intended uses. Even if there is a case to say youth are badly served, that is not the fault of these new developments but the lack of provision in the past. This new money is about the IMPACT of the developments on the WHOLE community and not PAST WRONGS. They must be fixed by new funding.

### Fact checks

HPC’s case is premised on there being an influx of youth from the new developments but obviously there will be all age groups in the new residents, so the numbers would have to be heavily weighted towards that specific age group to generate a disproportionate impact. This has been the implication in both the response on Facebook and in the letter referenced above but with no compelling evidence to back this theory. Therefore, this note analyses information already in the public domain and compares it with the few figures from HPC.

Official statistics and plans derived from them rely on data from the 2011 census and modelling applied to them to describe the current situation. However, not all studies use the same area of population, so some recalculation is necessary to relate the numbers to Hanborough.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.local.gov.uk/pas/pas-topics/infrastructure/s106-obligations-overview>

We start with the 2011 census which gives results for Hanborough and Freeland combined<sup>2</sup> showing a total population of 4190 residents in 1657 households giving an average of 2.53 persons per house. There is also information about age spread revealing that for Hanborough and Freeland 12.3% are aged 10 to 19. For Hanborough alone we must see another website which uses the 2011 census to show an estimate of the current situation<sup>3</sup>. From this we learn that in 2011 Hanborough had 2630 residents and an estimated 2737 in 2017. Of this number 285 are youth age representing 10.5% of the population.

The parish council's numbers given in an email to a resident (which originate from OCC) show 103 of youth age (10 to 19) arising from the development of 339 houses bringing the total of youth age to 388. If the sustainable development we are promised does not alter the nature of our community, it seems reasonable to use the current figure of 2.53 residents per house throughout Hanborough and Freeland to calculate the additional population. Thus, 339 new houses will add 857 residents to Hanborough bringing the total to 3594. Therefore, youth will be 10.8% of the community, and not statistically significantly different from now.

### Fact checks of the fact checks

All new developments follow the policies enshrined in our new WODC Local Plan 2031<sup>4</sup> and it shows no indication that young people will become a higher proportion of our population. However, its overview of population is worryingly out of kilter with its later statement for older people and OCC figures (see below).

#### 2.12

*The population is reasonably well-balanced in terms of different age groups. There is a similar proportion (19%) of young people (aged 0 – 15) compared to the national and regional averages although the proportion of older people (aged 65 or over) is slightly higher than average. These proportions are forecast to remain broadly the same.*

#### Older persons

##### 5.81

*West Oxfordshire has a relatively old demographic profile reflecting the fact that it is an attractive District that people wish to remain living in or retire to. Between 1981 and 2011 the proportion of residents aged 60+ increased by 82% (11,900 people) and 18% of people are currently aged 65 and over (compared with 16% nationally).*

##### 5.82

*Importantly, future projections suggest that the number of older people in West Oxfordshire will continue to increase. In the period 2011- 2031, the proportion aged 55+ is projected to increase by 54% with a particularly high increase in*

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.ukcensusdata.com/freeland-and-hanborough-e05006640>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.citypopulation.de/php/uk-parishes-southeastengland.php?adm2id=E04008295>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/media/1914416/local-plan-book-web.pdf>

*people aged 85+ (160%). This will be coupled with a significant increase in the number of people suffering from dementia and mobility problems. By 2040, older people aged over 60 are expected to make up a third of the population. An assessment by Oxfordshire County Council of older people's needs shows that while life expectancy is rising, more people are living into older age with disabilities - so for men in West Oxfordshire, disability free life expectancy at age 65 is 11.6 years, while for women it is 11.7 years.*

In its latest overview of UK population, the Office of National Statistics (ONS) has this to say<sup>5</sup>

*The UK population is ageing – around 18.2% of the UK population were aged 65 years or over at mid-2017, compared with 15.9% in 2007; this is projected to grow to 20.7% by 2027.*

OCC publishes a large amount of population data on its Oxfordshire Insight<sup>6</sup> page where you can load a large spreadsheet of predictions of population by council. For West Oxfordshire this shows youth (age 10 to 19) at 10.9% in 2017 rising slightly to 11.5% in 2023/4 then dropping back to 10.4 – 10.6 in 2032 to 2037. By contrast, for older people the predictions align with WODC's main statement on older population and the view of ONS. The level of people over 65 in West Oxfordshire is shown growing from 21% in 2017 to 24.9% in 2037.

### Conclusion

There seems to be no data to support the thesis that the new developments will increase the proportion of youth in our parish but there is evidence that the level of older people is increasing, although not directly as a result of development but because that is the national trend. Unless we are shown real evidence that the impact of the developments is so high on youth then it seems unfair to divert so much \$106 money meant for the whole community into a youth-oriented project, especially as this discriminates against the old who do have evidence in their favour.

The HPFA favours a building solution that caters for all age of users and has a location central to the village.

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<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/articles/overviewoftheukpopulation/november2018>

<sup>6</sup> <http://insight.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/population-0>